possible time. The overall target for thermal generation for 1987-88 has been increased by about 2.7 billion units.

Power Production in the Country.

229. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total power generated by the public sector and the private sector in terms of Mega Watts and percentage of the total power production in the country during the last three years;

(b) what is the total net loss suffered or profit made by these sectors during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that the operational losses of public sector power plants are increasing; if so, what are the details thereof; and what are the reasons for the same; and

(d) what action is contemplated to minimise the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Industrial Alcohol

230. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how much industrial alcohol was imported in the country during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87; and

(b) how much imported alcohol was given to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) During 1984-85 no permission for import of industrial alcohol was given. However, during the period from February, 1985, to November, 1986 duty free import of denatured alcohol was permitted to actual users (industrial) and the actual import was 579,38,818 litres. The Statewise details of this import work out as under:—

S.No.	Name of the State	Quantity in litres
1.	Andhra Pradesh	46,68,386
2.	Delhi	69,89,471
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	60,000
4.	Goa	23,800
5.	Gujarat	46,68,386
6.	Karnataka	30,31,669
7.	Madhya Pradesh	75,000
8.	Maharashtra	46,14,490
9.	Orissa	99,663
10.	Rajasthan	6,62,543
11.	Tamil Nadu	57,10,472
12.	West Bengal	3,19,22,887
	Total	5,79,38,818

Soviet Assistance for New Power Projects

231. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Union has recently offered to extend assistance for new power projects in India;

(b) if so, what are the details of the offer made by the Soviet Union;

(c) whether Government have since accepted the Soviet offer; and

(d) if so, to what extent the problem of acute shortage of power in the country is likely to be met with the help of Soviet assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (d) In the Eighth Meeting of the Indo-Soviet Working Group on Power held in Moscow from 12th to 17th October, 1987, both sides recognised that prospects exist in respect of enlarging cooperation in the construction of new thermal/hydro power stations and transmission and distribution systems. The Soviet side indicated their interest in extending assistance, on mutually acceptable terms and conditions, for new projects of an aggregate capacity of 3000 MW on which work could start before March, 1990. The Indian side agreed to examine the offer expeditiously in the light of their new capacity induction plans.

To the extent viable projects are taken up for implementation, these would contribute to augmenting power availability in the country.

Raising Prices of Drugs by Drug Companies

232. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether drug companies can raise the prices of their drugs at their own will; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) what are the reasons for not imposing a condition on the drug companies for obtaining permission of Government which may also permit the company to increase the Price to a certain extent instead of putting a burden on the poor patients from time to time; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) The drug companies can revise the prices of their price decontrolled products only as per DPCO, 1987.

(b) and (c) The companies are required to take the approval of the Government for the prices of all their products which are controlled under the DPCO, 1987.

ताप विद्युत के उत्पादन के लक्ष्य

233. **श्री मीर्जा इर्शादबेग :** क्या **ऊर्जा** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजनावधि के दौरान ताप विद्युत के उत्पादन के क्या-क्या लक्ष्य रखे गये हैं और इस संबंध में प्रथम दो वर्षों में कितनी प्रगति हुई है ;

(ख) सूखे तथा वर्षा की कमी के कारण इसके उत्पादन पर क्या प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा है और इससे संयंत्र भार गुणक (प्लान्ट लोड फैक्टर) के राष्ट्रीय औसत में कितनी कमी आई है और उसका क्या असर हुआ है ; और

(ग) ऊर्जा की आवश्यकता की तुलना में इसमें कितनी कमी हुई है और इस स्थिति स निपटने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में विद्युत विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी) : (क) सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के अंतिम वर्ष के दौरान ताप विद्युत उत्पादन का लक्ष्य 193.87 मिलियन यूनिट निर्धारित किया गया है ? इसकी तुलना में योजनावधि के प्रथम दो वर्षों के दौरान वास्तविक उत्पादन निम्नानुसार रहा :

1985-86	114.12 मिलियन यूनिट
1986-87	128.80 मिलियन यूनिट

(ख) सूखे तथा वर्षा की कमी के कारण ताप विद्युत उत्पादन पर कोई